

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USINT ALGIERS

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186176

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB (SIHANOUK)

SUBJECT: ABC INTERVIEW WITH SIHANOUK

REF: STATE 181920

1. PRINCE SIHANOUK'S INTERVIEW WITH LOU CIOFFI WAS CARRIED ON 4-MINUTE CLIP ON ABC EVENING NEWS SEPTEMBER 18. CLIP WAS PITCHED ON SIHANOUK'S REFUSAL TO SEE SECRETARY-DESIGNATE KISSINGER. SIHANOUK SAID THAT KISSINGER WAS THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF THE SUFFERING OF "MY PEOPLE," CITING THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISOR AS THE INITIATOR OF THE 1970 CAMBODIAN INCURSIONS AND THE RECENT BOMBING CAMPAIGN.

2. ASKED IF HE WOULD SEE MANSFIELD, THE PRINCE SAID HE WOULD SEE THE SENATOR AS A "PERSONAL FRIEND" BUT NOT AS A US NEGOTIATOR. SIHANOUK, AS USUAL, REFUSED ANY POLITICAL COMPROMISE WITH THE "LON NOL REGIME."

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3. SIHANOUK ATTRIBUTED KHMER INSURGENT INABILITY TO TOPPLE FANK IN KOMPONG CHAM TO LACK OF AMMUNITION. SIHANOUK SAID NORTH VIETNAMESE PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG HAD PROMISED HIM MORE BUT HAD NOT GIVEN ENOUGH -- "WE TRIED TO TAKE KOMPONG CHAM BUT COULD NOT BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT HAD ENOUGH MUNITIONS AND THE US GIVES LON NOL SO MUCH."

4. CIOFI ASKED SIHANOUK HOW MANY YEARS THEN IT WOULD TAKE TO GAIN "VICTORY." SIHANOUK RESPONDED, "KNOWING CHINA AND

NORTH VIETNAM CANNOT HELP US IN THE MILITARY FIELD, WE THINK IT WILL TAKE MANY YEARS TO END THE WAR." RUSH

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